

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CLERK'S OFFICE

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES
(Notice for Newspaper)

DOCKET NO. 2019-290-WS

**Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval of an
Adjustment in Rate Schedules and an Increase in Rates**

On October 2, 2019, Blue Granite Water Company ("Blue Granite" or the "Company") filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") an application requesting authority to adjust its rate schedules and to increase its rates ("Application"). The Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-240 and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-712(4)(A) and 103-512(4)(A).

In its Application, the Company states that recent major capital projects needed to improve service to customers, increases in costs for third-party purchased water and wastewater treatment, increases in property taxes related to capital investment, and updates to depreciation rates, have made it necessary to request a net increase in retail revenues. The Company has invested approximately \$23 million in its water and wastewater infrastructure since the last rate case, filed in November 2017. Blue Granite's request includes a one-time credit to customers resulting from the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in the amount of \$10.64. Blue Granite also proposes to implement annual rate adjustment procedures for Purchased Water Charges and Purchased Wastewater Treatment Charges, and for authority to continue to defer the Company's purchased water and wastewater treatment expenses (above or below the amounts reflected in rates) caused by changes in third party provider rates, until such expenses are reflected in rates. The Company also makes other requests in its Application, including seeking authority to defer costs related to the decommissioning of certain assets, to establish a storm reserve fund, to include in its tariff the treatment of taxes on contributions in aid of construction, to change its pumping charge for solids interceptor tanks to reflect actual costs, and to implement an opt-in "Round Up" program to assist customers in need.

Blue Granite seeks to recover additional annual revenues resulting from third-party purchased water and wastewater treatment resulting primarily from investments in infrastructure needed to serve customers, for a total requested annual revenue increase of \$11,731,803. This results in an annual revenue increase for Service Territory 1 Water of \$3,636,850, for Service Territory 2 Water of \$1,939,107, and for Consolidated Sewer of \$6,155,846. Blue Granite also proposes to separately bill for and receive annual revenues to recover third-party purchased water and wastewater treatment costs.

If the Application or Petition in this case contains a request for adjustment of rates, the rates are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

A copy of the Company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2019-290-WS. Additionally, a copy of the Application is available from the offices of Frank R. Ellerbe, III, Esquire and Samuel J. Wellborn, Esquire, Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC, Post Office Box 11449, Columbia, South Carolina 29211.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a party of record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **December 16, 2019**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all parties of record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2019-290-WS and mail a copy to all other parties in this docket.*** Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory

**** (Please see full Application on the Commission's website @psc.sc.gov) ****

Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **December 16, 2019**. *Please refer to Docket No. 2019-290-WS.*

Any person who wishes to request that the Commission hold a public hearing in his or her county of residence in order to hear comments from the utility's customers should notify, in writing, the Commission at the address below; the Office of Regulatory Staff, at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, SC 29201; and the Company at the above address, on or before **December 16, 2019**.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties. The hearing may continue on February 27, 2020, February 28, 2020, March 2, 2020 and March 3, 2020, if necessary.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenors only): All Parties of Record must pre-file testimony with the Commission and with all parties of record. Pre-filed Testimony Deadlines: the Company's **Direct Testimony Due: 12/30/2019**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony Due: 1/22/2020**; the Company's **Rebuttal Testimony Due: 2/5/2020**; and Other Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony Due: 2/12/2020**. All Pre-filed Testimony Deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under *Docket No. 2019-290-WS*.

For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and *Docket No. 2019-290-WS*.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov.